

January 21, 2011

Dear Don Roberts and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask your support of the Medicaid Waiver Program and Personal Care Services administered through DPHHS. These programs provide vital services to the disabled Montanans who would otherwise be forced into nursing homes or institutions.

As a Medicaid provider, I have seen how both the Waiver Program and Personal Care Services have enabled people with disabilities to remain in their communities and lead active and productive lives. Many of the recipients of these services are younger members of our society who have suffered traumatic brain injury. Without such services, these people would be warehoused in nursing homes or become the responsibility of elderly parents and family members.

In the early 1990's, then Governor Marc Racicot signed into legislation the Traumatic Brain Injury Bill enabling the Waiver Program and Personal Care Services to be initiated. At that time, it was determined that the cost of this program was far less than what would be spent on nursing home care. The foresight of this legislation enabled Montanans with traumatic injuries to be DE-institutionalized, at a cost savings to the Medicaid program.

I would be happy to answer questions you may have regarding this highly important and vital program for our less fortunate Montanans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ellen Vogelsang, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
Helena, Montana